

On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

The Learning Journey Continues in the Summer Months with APD

School maybe out for area students, but the learning journey continues for those involved in summer programs being led by the Arlington Police Department.

Fourteen-year-old Vanessa Martinez is one of about 90 students enrolled this summer in Police Athletic League Camp or PAL Camp. APD is hosting three camps. Each one provides an important avenue for learning about



positive choices and responsible citizenship, said School Resource Officer Barry Samples, a camp leader. PAL Campers have completed junior high and were pre-selected by their counselors and School Resource Officers. PAL Camp is sponsored by a host of community partners, including the Arlington Police Foundation.

Meet 17-year-old Conner Vollmering, one of 26 area high school seniors enrolled in the new Hometown Recruiting Program.



Conner is spending the summer studying the Texas Penal Code to familiarize himself with state laws. This program is a partnership between APD, Arlington ISD, and UT-Arlington. It allows high school students considering a career in law enforcement to earn credit toward a criminal justice degree and participate in early police training.

"In this program, I can continue on the path to becoming a member of one of the best police departments in the world," Conner said.

"I am looking forward to meeting new people, learning new things and having fun!"
PAL Camper Vanessa Martinez

More students are spending the summer learning and growing as members of Explorer Post 602.

Conner is also the president. Their summer schedule includes training and a state competition. Officer Jeff Lee leads this group of youth ages 14-20 who are also preparing for careers in policing.

Meanwhile, students from the Mayor's Youth Council are getting ready for their annual summer leadership retreat. They will lay the foundation for a year of themed programs and activities, according to Staff Liaison Yvonne Falgout.

In addition to PAL Camp, APD Youth Services Commander Lieutenant Carol Riddle is also an advisor to the Mayor's Youth Commission.

Even during the summer when school is out, learning remains an important part of everyday life.

"The Arlington Police Department is proud to partner in efforts to keep our children safe and informed," Lt. Riddle said.



Congratulations!

Officer Barry Samples is one of 8 Extra Mile Award winners recently recognized for service and leadership. As a mentor and community volunteer, this officer inspires students to be responsible citizens. Along with the Extra Mile Award came a monetary reward for the charity of his choice, Explorer Post 602.

Officer Samples has been with APD since 1993. The Extra Mile Award is sponsored by First Rate, Inc. and the Arlington Alliance for Youth.

A Day in the Life ...

ON CALL with Homicide Detective Caleb Blank

The biggest case of his career kept him awake for 48 hours.

"I couldn't sleep for a week," Homicide Detective Caleb Blank said. "So, I might as well work. I remember walking through the church and wondering how would I ever solve this case."

A 67-year-old ministry assistant was brutally assaulted and the Rev. Clint Dobson was fatally wounded inside of a church in March 2011.

Detective Blank worked around the clock to put the pieces of this crime together. Within days, two arrests were made. One is now on Texas' death row.

A day in the life of Homicide Detective Caleb Blank could start at 9 a.m. or as



2013 Officer of the Year - Detective Caleb Blank

early as 2 a.m. A typical work day involves responding to emails, phone calls, interviewing witnesses and checking the jail log often to see if there is anyone there to talk with.

This week, there was a quick afternoon trip to the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office in downtown Fort Worth. Detective Blank needed a judge to sign a search warrant in a homicide case involving a man who murdered his estranged wife in April 2014.

Wearing his nicest suit coat, Detective Blank travels to Fort Worth at least twice a month to talk with Assistant District Attorneys about cases and answer court subpoenas.

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On Call

North District

Save the DATE!



National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 7!

Turn on your lights, lock your doors and join your neighbors for a celebration of community and police partnerships.

Register your NNO party by Sept. 22 and enter for a chance to win FREE pizzas for your neighborhood.

[Click here](#) for details.

Another Great Year at The Rec Ends With a Victory for Everyone

The last day of The Rec this school year ended with what has become an exciting tradition - a basketball scrimmage between the Police Department and Lamar High School students.

Everyone enjoyed a competitive afternoon of fun on May 15. APD won. The score was 31 to 18. Precinct 2 Constable David Woodruff was the referee and is a familiar face at The Rec. He serves as a security guard, role model and friend

to students.

This was the second year for The Rec, and this program remains a success. Attendance this year has grown to attract well over 100 students a day.

This afterschool program was established as a community partnership between Lamar High, North Davis Church of Christ, and the Police Department and provides our youth a safe place to gather after school. Students enjoy snacks and various fun activities.

It is great to watch communities come together to make our city a safer place to live.

Contact me if you'd like more information about how you or your place of worship or business can help with programs that impact our youth.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call

South District

A Random Act of Kindness Gives a Homeowner Comfort

In a world that can sometimes appear lonely, there are people who restore our faith in humanity every day with random acts of kindness.

On May 27, two employees from the Home Depot on South Cooper Street stepped forward to provide assistance to a neighbor in the South Police District who lives alone in her home.

Following a home safety inspection that revealed the need for improvements, these two employees offered their assistance. Home Depot Loss

Prevention Supervisor Kausha Bass and Assistant Manager Don Graham arrived with donated supplies. It was a joy to watch them demonstrate care and compassion as they installed a new deadbolt lock and replaced screws and strike plates on the door frames of the woman's home. They answered her questions and gave her comfort.

A special thanks to these two Home Depot employees for this intentional act of kindness that did something really good for someone else.



Don Graham & Kausha Bass were presented APD Community Certificates of Merit for their contribution.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Ray Polk at 817-459-6468 or Ray.Polk@Arlingtontx.gov.

July is Watch Your Car Month

Hide your valuables. Take your keys. Lock your Car. Park in well-lit areas. The Texas Auto Burglary Theft Prevention Authority offers more ways to protect your vehicle from theft. [Click here](#) for details.

Before you Go ... Always remember to take the time to cross safely at a cross walk. Walk safely. Be Alert. *It's the way to go!*



On Call

East District

Bar Managers and Owners Unite for Information-Sharing

In the East Police District, a community outreach effort is creating a growing network of bar owners and managers who are focused on crime prevention and more communication with their Police Department.

This outreach effort is similar to a Neighborhood Watch program. Meetings in the Community Room of the East Police Service Center allow managers to bring concerns to the ears of the Police Department so that everyone can work hand in hand to address issues before they become big problems.

To date, quarterly meetings have grown to include representation from eight East Arlington area bar



Bar Manager's Meeting

establishments. Community response has been positive as interest in these meetings grows.

Lt. Eddie Garth works closely with the program to ensure that topics such as DWI, public intoxication, fire prevention and code enforcement are brought forward for open discussion.

The May meeting included representatives from the Public Works and Transportation Department who talked with bar managers and owners about the status of

roadway construction projects near their businesses.

These meetings are a great way to keep the lines of communication open while building a wonderful rapport with our business community.

Contact the East Police District, if you'd like more information about the next Arlington Bar Manager's Meeting.



The Annual Communities Against Crime 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk returns to River Legacy Parks on Saturday, Aug. 30. [Click here](#) to register.



The Arlington July 4 Parade will begin at 9 a.m. **Friday, July 4** in downtown Arlington. [Click here](#) for parade route.

APD reminds you to celebrate responsibly. **If you drink, do NOT Drive. Designate a sober driver.**



Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalie Kuehling at 817-459-5817 or Maria.Kuehling@ArlingtonTx.gov.

On Call West District

Take 25 Minutes to Talk With Your Children About Safety

Summer fun is in full swing and your police department reminds parents and guardians that a conversation with children about safety is an important talk that can take just 25 minutes.

Every summer, the Arlington Police Department is proud to support Take 25, a preventative child safety campaign created by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The program serves as a reminder to the nation to make child safety a national priority.

Designed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding missing and exploited children, the Take 25 campaign encourages parents to talk to their children about safety.



Acting Assistant Chief Jim Lowery speaks with children about safety at Sherrod Elementary.

Start the Conversation ...

Teach children to remember their full name, home address and telephone number.

Tell them: "A trusted adult is someone like your mom, dad or teacher who makes you feel safe, helps you and listens to you anytime you feel scared or uncomfortable."



With a focus on prevention, Take 25 also provides communities with free safety resources including safety tips, conversation starters, and engaging summertime activities. Visit Take25.org for more information.

Congratulations!

APD Social Media is the Best in Texas for a third year in a row! **Best of Texas 2014 Awards** were presented June 17 in Austin at the Center for Digital Government Annual Summit.

See what you're missing. Follow APD on Twitter, Like and Share on Facebook. Subscribe on Nixle. Contact the APD Media Office for more details.

Did you know?

The Arlington Police Foundation is private support for public service.

Click [here](#) to visit their website and read *IN FOCUS*, the new Police Foundation newsletter.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfelty at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov.

ON CALL with Homicide Detective Caleb Blank (continued from Page 1)

He is one of four APD homicide detectives. The Homicide Unit also includes a civilian investigator, one civilian staff professional and a sergeant. This unit works suicides, natural deaths, suspicious deaths, kidnappings, officer involved shootings and missing person cases.

They write search warrants, solicit witness statements, write arrest warrants and coordinate document filings in court.

Detective Blank joined the Homicide Unit in 2010 after three years in Robbery and Gang Investigations. Originally from Kingwood, the husband and father of three earned his bachelor's

degree in biology from UT-Arlington. When he decided to re-evaluate plans for medical school, his father-in-law, a retired lieutenant with the Houston Police Department, encouraged him to consider a career in law enforcement.

"Being a science geek, I found police work to be much different than lab work," he said.

"Field Training Officer Ted Eby showed me how to do things the right way," he said.

"He showed me how to be a good officer. I credit all of my field training officers for making me the officer I am now."

Detective Blank has done such

great work, that he was bestowed the prestigious APD Officer of the Year Award earlier this year. More than 650 people were in attendance.

"It was surreal," he said. "There are plenty of other officers deserving of this award. Yes, it was a big accomplishment."

But nothing is more of an accomplishment than solving a case, he said.

"It's a good feeling when you see the appreciation and you've been able to provide a family with closure. That's the biggest reward of all."



Detective Caleb Blank was honored in February as the APD 2013 Officer of the Year. The award was presented by Police Chief Will Johnson.

Congratulations! Eight Officers Earn Leadership Promotions in APD



Eight Arlington officers earned leadership positions during a Promotional Ceremony at City Hall on June 20.

Congratulations! **Kyle Dishko** and **Jonathan Grant-Brooks** were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Chris Moore, VaNessa Harrison, Blake Hyder, Frank Vacante, Jason McRay and Ray Polk were all promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Find more ceremony highlights on APD Facebook or contact the APD Media Office.



Lt. Dishko is pinned by his wife.



Sgt. Harrison's daughter pins her new badge.



The VIP Treatment

"They must be some important kids!"

That's what onlookers said last week as East Foot Patrol Officers escorted this group of students from Thornton Elementary School through AT&T Stadium.

Teachers and counselors followed closely with cameras as students toured locker rooms, luxury suites and raced on the field with their officer mentors. These students were celebrating their success in school and for making good choices all year long!

